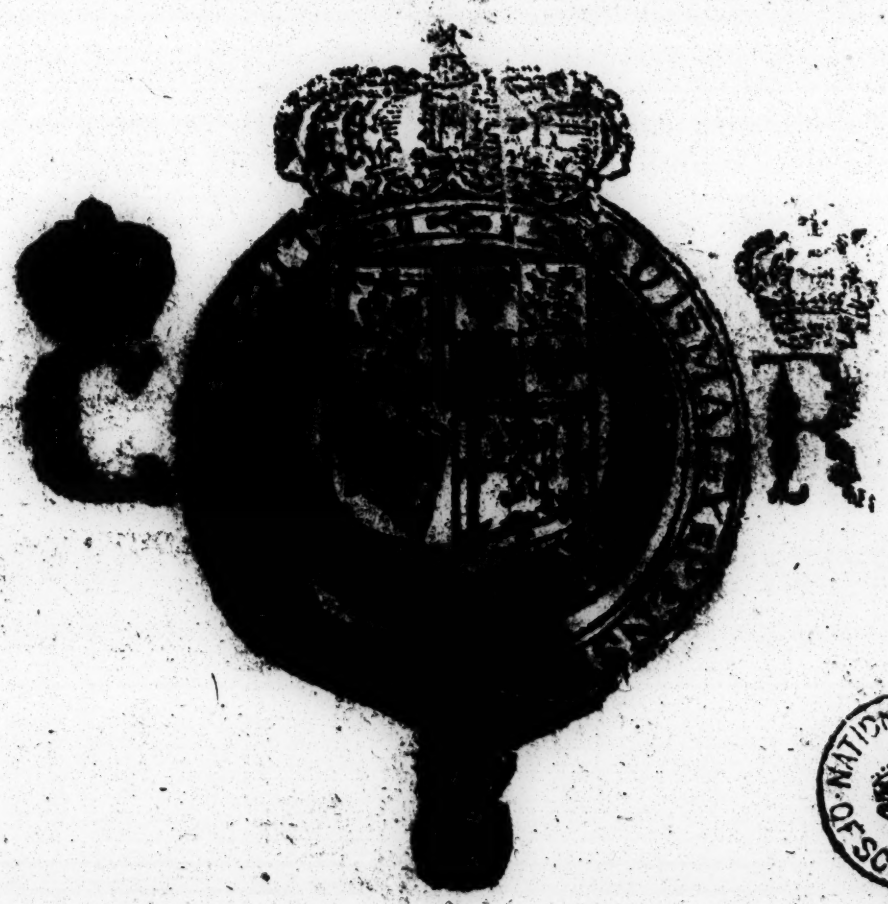
His Majesties

DECLARATION

To all His

Loving Subjects,

June the Second, 1680.



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

EDINBURGH,

Reprinted by the Heir of *Andrew Anderson*, Printer to His most Sacred Majesty, 1680.

Charles R.

WE cannot but take notice of the great Industry and Malice wherewith some men of a Seditious and restless Spirit, do spread abroad a most false and scandalous Report of a Marriage or Contract of Marriage supposed to be had and made between Us and one Mrs. *Walters*, alias *Barlow*, now deceased, Mother of the present Duke of *Monmouth*, aiming thereby to fill the minds of Our Loving Subjects with Doubts and Fears, and if possible, to divide them into Parties and Factions, and as much as in them lies, to bring into Question the clear undoubted Right of Our True and Lawful Heirs and Successors to the Crown. We have therefore thought Our self obliged to let Our Loving Subjects see what steps We (out of Our Care of them and their Posterity) have already made, in order to obviate the ill Consequences that so dangerous and malicious a Report may have in future times upon the Peace of Our Kingdoms.

In *January* last was Twelvemonth, we made a Declaration written with Our own Hand in these Words following;

THere being a false and malicious Report industriously spread abroad by some who are neither Friends to Me nor the Duke of Monmouth, *as if I should have been either Contracted or Married to his Mother; though I am most confident that this idle Story cannot have any effect in this Age, yet I thought it My Duty in relation to the true Succession of this Crown, and that future Ages may not have any pretence to give Disturbance upon that score, or any other of this nature, to Declare, as I do here Declare in the presence of Almighty God, that I never was Married nor gave any Contract*

to any Woman whatsoever, but to my wife Queen Catherine, *to whom I am now Married. In witness whereof I set my Hand at* Whitehall *the Sixth of* January 167;.

Charles R.

And this Declaration I did make in the presence of

W. Cant.
H. Finch, C.
H. Coventry.
J. Williamson.

To

TO ſtrengthen which **Declaration**, *We did in* **March** *following,* (*which was* **March** *laſt was Twelve-month*) *make a more publick* **Declaration** *in Our* **Privy Council**, *written likewiſe with Our own Hand; and having cauſed a true Tranſcript thereof to be Entred in Our Council Books, We Signed it, and cauſed the Lords of our* Privy Council *then attending us in* **Council**, *to ſubſcribe the ſame likewiſe, and We Ordered the Original to be kept in the Council Cheſt, where it now remains. The Entry whereof in the Council Book, is in theſe words following.*

At the Court at *WHITEHALL, March* **the** 3d. 167$^{8}_{9}$.

Preſent

The KINGS Moſt Excellent Majeſty

Lord Chancellor
Lord **Treaſurer**
Duke of *Lauderdale*
Marqueſs of *Worceſter*
Earl of *Oſſery*
Lord *Chamberlain*
Earl of *Sunderland*
Earl of *Clarendon*
Earl of *Eſſex*
Earl of *Bathe*
Earl of *Craven*
Earl of *Aylesbury*
Lord Biſhop of *London*
Lord Biſhop of *Durham*
Lord *Maynard*
Mr. Vice-Chamberlain.

HIs Majeſty was this day pleaſed to Command, That the Declaration hereafter following, be entred in the Council Book, It being all written and Signed by his majeſties own Hand, in a Paper which His Majeſty this day delivered at the Boord, to be kept in the Council Cheſt, *Viz.*

FOr the avoiding of any **Diſpute** *which may happen in time to come, concerning the Succeſſion of the* **Crown**, *I do here* **Declare** *in the preſence of Almighty God, That I never gave nor made any* **Contract** *of* **Marriage**, *nor was* **Married** *to any* **Woman** *whatſoever, but to my preſent* **Wife**

Wife Queen Catherine *now living.* Whitehall, *the Third day of* March 167$^{8}_{9}$.

CHARLES REX.

His Majesty Commanded us who were present at the making and Signing this Declaration, to Attest the same,

Finch C.
Danby
Lauderdale
Worcester
Ossory
Arlington
Sunderland
Clarendon
Essex
Bathe
Craven
Aylesbury
H. London
N. Durham
W. Maynard
G. Carteret.

IN April last we found the same Rumour not only revived again, but also improved with New Additions. To wit, It was given out, That there was a writing yet extant, and lately produced before several Persons, whereby the said Marriage, or a Contract least (for the Report was Various) would appear, and that there are several Lords and others yet living, who were pretended to have been present at the said Marriage. We knew full well that it was impossible that any thing of this should be true, (there being nothing more groundless and false then that there was any such *Marriage* or Contract between Us and the said *Mrs Walters*, alias *Barlow*) yet we proceeded to call before Us, and caused to be Interrogated in Council, such Lords and other persons, as the common Rumour did surmise to have been present at the pretended *Marriage*, or to know something of it, or of the said Writing. And though it appeared to all Our Council, upon the hearing of the said Lords and other Persons severally Interrogated, and upon their denying to have been present at any such *Marriage*, or to know any thing of it, or of any such Writting, That the raising and spreading of such a Report, so incoherent in the several parts of it, was the effect of deep *Malice* in some few, and of loose and idle Discourse of others;

Yet

Yet we think it requisite at this time, to make our Declarations above recited more publick; and to Order the same (as We do hereby with the advice of Our Privy Council) to be forthwith Printed and Published. And We do again upon this Occasion call Almighty God to Witness, and Declare upon the faith of a Christian, and the Word of a King, that there was never any Marriage, or Contract of Marriage had or made between Us and the said Mrs *Walters* alias *Barlow*, the Duke of *Monmouth*'s Mother, nor between Us and any Woman whatsoever, Our Royal Consort Queen *Catherine*, that now is, only excepted.

And We do hereby strictly require and command all Our Subjects whatsoever, that they presume not to utter or publish any thing contrary to the tenor of this Our Declaration, at their Peril, and upon pain of being proceeded against according to the utmost Severity and Rigor of the Law.

Given at Our Court, at Whitehall, *the second day of* June, *in the Two and thirtieth Year of Our Reign.*

FINIS.